

CLAIMS:

1. A colon-targeted drug delivery system for oral administration comprising an amount of glycyrrhizin sufficient to release the same at a concentration overwhelming the rate of hydrolysis thereof by the intestinal flora in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. The drug delivery system according to claim 1 wherein all or a portion of said carrier consists of an absorption promoter selected from the group consisting of an organic acid, a surfactant and a chelating agent.

3. The drug delivery system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein a suppository preparation containing glycyrrhizin is received in an anionic polymer capsule.

4. The drug delivery system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein glycyrrhizin is received together with an organic acid in a gelatin capsule having on the outer surface thereof a multi-layered coating consisting of a gastro-soluble film, a water-soluble film and an enteric film in the mentioned order.

5. The drug delivery system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the system comprises a water-insoluble capsule body and a water soluble capsule cap, and wherein glycyrrhizin in a mixture with said carrier is placed in said capsule body inwardly from a hydrogel plug that closes the

opening the capsule body.

6. The drug delivery system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein a glycyrrhizin-containing tablet has been coated with a colon-soluble polymer.

7. The drug delivery system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein glycyrrhizin in admixture with said carrier is received in a capsule made of a colon-soluble polymer.

8. The drug delivery system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the system comprises a capsule made of ethylcellulose defining a number of microholes in an area of the capsule wall and a shaped mass of a water-swellable substance facing the microholes, and wherein glycyrrhizin in admixture with said carrier is received in the remaining space of said capsule.

9. A method of enhancing the bioavailability of orally administered glycyrrhizin comprising providing a colon-targeted drug delivery system containing glycyrrhizin, orally administering said system to a human subject, and allowing the system to release glycyrrhizin selectively in the colon.

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A1

add
B2